

WEIRD TERROR

GHOSTLY TALES OF SPINE-CHILLING HORROR

WEIRD TERROR

NOV. NO. 2 1964



COMIC MEDIA

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LOW WEIGHT or NO WEIGHT

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MAIL THIS NO-DAY-FREE TRIAL COUPON NOW!

JOHN ANDERS WAS SURE HE HAD THE ANSWER TO WHY ACCIDENTS HAPPENED TO PEOPLE-- UNTIL HE SAW THE HORROR THAT EMERGED FROM THE NETHERWORLD! IT WAS THEN THAT HIS OWN LIFE HUNG IN THE BALANCE--FOR NONE WHO MET THE EVIL CREATURES EVER ESCAPED
...THE

EVIL ONES!



JOHN ANDERS WAS THE CITY MORGUE STATISTICIAN! FOR A LONG TIME, HE HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS --AND NOW HE WAS ON THE TRACK OF DISCOVERY AT LAST!

HERE IT IS--THE CURVE ON THIS GRAPH! GOOD LORD! IT MEANS THAT ACCIDENTS ARE NEVER ACCIDENTAL! TOO MANY COINCIDENCES, CAUSING THEM ARE DELIBERATE!

BUT WHY? WHO-WHAT CAUSES THEM? THIS INFORMATION I'VE JUST DISCOVERED WILL STUN THE ENTIRE WORLD! THINK OF IT-- SOME UNKNOWN EVIL POWER IS LEAGUED AGAINST MANKIND!

ARMED WITH HIS EARTH-SHAKING KNOWLEDGE, ANDERS KNEW TO THE SECOND WHEN AN ACCIDENT WOULD HAPPEN! HE APPROACHED THE CROWDED DOWNTOWN THOROUGHFARE AS A BIRD WOULD A SNAKE...



THAT MAN IS CROSSING THE STREET-- DOESN'T SEE THE TRUCK COMING!



HEY, MISTER! GET OUT OF THE WAY! WATCH OUT FOR THAT TRUCK!

WHA...!

BEEP



A-A-A-AH...

SCREECH!

ANDERS HAD CLOSED HIS EYES FOR ONE HORRIBLE SECOND-- BUT HE COULD NEVER DEAFEN HIS EARS TO THE SICKENING THUD OF THE IMPACT! IT WAS THEN THAT HE SAW THE GNOME!



HEE, HEE... HA, HA... I SAW THAT-- THAT THING!-- OR WHAT EVER HE WAS-- PUSH THE MAN TOWARDS THE TRUCK! BUT NO ONE ELSE SEEMS TO HAVE SEEN HIM! STOP, YOU! STOP!

BUT THE GNOME DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE! ANDERS NOW WALKED TO ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY AND GRIMLY WATCHED AGAIN...

ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, THAT SAFE IS GOING TO FALL!



NOW ANOTHER SHADOWY FORM MATERIALIZED ON TOP OF THE SAFE...

JUST A SNIP, SNIP, SNIP-- AND IT WILL FLIP, FLIP, FLIP -- ON THAT MORTAL'S HEAD! HE, HE... HA, HA, HA!



WATCH OUT! OHHRR!



BAMM!

THIS TIME, ANDERS RESOLVED TO TRACE THAT EVIL CACKLING FIGURE, NIGHT HAD FALLEN, THE MORGUE STATISTICIAN PURSUED HIS QUARRY...

APPARENTLY IT'S INVISIBLE TO EVERY ONE BUT ME...!

HA, HA...HEE, HEE BACK TO THE GROTTO FOR ME!



MINUTES LATER, HE HAD FOLLOWED THE STRANGE GNOME TOWARDS THE RAILROAD DEPOT OF THE CITY. PEOPLE WERE NOW LOOKING AT HIM QUEERLY...

LET THEM LOOK! I CAN'T TELL THEM THAT I'M ON THE VERGE OF FINDING THE SECRET OF THE AGES! IT'S FOR THEIR BENEFIT--AND I CAN'T TELL THEM, YET!



HE'S GOING INTO THAT TUNNEL! I MUSTN'T LOSE HIM--!



DOWN, DOWN--EVER DOWNWARD THAT HIDEOUS FORM TRAVELED-- PAST DRIPPING, OOZING LABYRINTHS OF SLIME-- PAST PLOPPING WHORLPOOLS OF FILTH--UNTIL IT CAME TO A GROTTO-LIKE CAVE...

CRUMPKIN, FRUMKIN, AND LUMPKIN SHALL BE GLAD TO SEE ME TONIGHT. HEE, HEE...TWO MORE HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF NICELY! HA-HA... HEE - HEE...



HEE - HEE... BEHOLD! IT IS SHRUMPKIN! HO! EVERYONE OUT! HEE, HEE... TELL US WHAT HAPPENED! TELL US! TELL US! HA, KA...!

GOOD LORD! THIS HAS TO BE A NIGHTMARE! IT HAS TO BE!



BUT AS JOHN ANDERS LOOKED ABOUT, THE THOUGHT BECAME CLEAR TO HIM THAT HERE WAS A RACE MUCH MORE ADVANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE THAN MAN! FOR EVERYWHERE WERE BILLIONS AND BILLIONS OF LIGHTS AND WEIRD INSTRUMENTS...

WHAT IS THIS!
WHERE AM I?

SHRIMPKIN WAS SUCCESSFUL! HA, HA... HEE, HEE... DANCE--DANCE DANCE!

--GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE-- WARN OTHERS!!

WAIT! I HEAR A SOUND! THERE'S SOMEONE HERE-- SOMEONE WHO ISN'T ONE OF US!

BEHOLD! I SEE A SHADOW IN THAT CORRIDOR!

IT'S A HUMAN! QUICKLY-- STOP HIM! HE WILL MAKE OUR EXISTENCE KNOWN! CATCH HIM! CATCH HIM!

WE SHALL EAT WELL TONIGHT! HA, HA, HA, HA...

I HAVE HIM! HE IS WELL-BUILT! HE WILL PROVIDE US MANY MEALS! HA, HA... LET US COOK HIM WELL! DRAG HIM BACK TO THE GROTTO!

NO! LET ME ALONE! HELP!

SHOUT ALL YOU WANT, MORTAL! NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU! WE CANNOT LET YOU TATTLE ON US! YOUR PEOPLE MAY THINK YOU DAFT-- BUT THEN AGAIN-- THEY MAY NOT! WE HATE SURFACE PEOPLE!

YA-A-A-AH! PLEASE LET GO OF ME! I'LL DO ANYTHING!

THEY PULLED AT ANDERS--THEY SCRATCHED HIM--
THEY CLAWED AT HIM-- BUT THE DESPERATE MAN
BROKE LOOSE AND RAN--RAN FOR HIS VERY LIFE!

YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME!
I- I'LL WIN, YET!
PUFF-PUFF...

HE IS CHEATING US OUT OF
OUR DINNER! DO NOT LET
HIM ESCAPE!



GASP..GASP...I- I'VE GOT
TO MAKE MY WAY BACK TO
THE SURFACE!--IT'S MY
ONLY CHANCE TO TRICK
THESE HORRORS! MUSTN'T
WEAKEN-- MUSTN'T!

KILL HIM! WE'D
LIKE TO EAT
HIM ALIVE! BUT
KILL HIM, IF IT'S
NECESSARY!
HA, HA...!



BACK THROUGH THOSE MAZE OF PASSAGEWAYS HE RAN,
BACK--BACK-- UNTIL HE REACHED THE LAST CORRIDOR
--AND THE SURFACE WORLD!

GASP..GASP...I'VE DONE IT!
HA, HA... I WON... I'M FREE! NOW
WE'LL SEE IF YOU CAN STOP ME!

YOU'LL NOT
ESCAPE! NO
HUMAN CAN
LOOK UPON US
AND LIVE!



TIME WAS PRECIOUS--TIME WAS FLEETING
FOR ANDERS! THE HORRIBLE HORD WOULD
BE PREPARING SOMETHING ESPECIALLY GRIE-
VUSOME FOR HIM. HE HAD TO WARN THE WORLD..

THESE ARE ALL THE CHARTS! THEY MUST
BELIEVE ME! HEAVEN GIVE ME THE STRENGTH
TO CONVINC THEM!



BUT HOURS LATER...

NOW GET OUT AND STAY OUT! THE
MAYOR CAN'T BE DISTURBED BY
EVERY CRACKPOT THAT COMES TO
SEE HIM! "ACCIDENTS BEING
DELIBERATE!" "GNOMES!" FAH!

ALL RIGHT! I'LL HAVE TO WARN THEM SOME
OTHER WAY! I'LL BUY AN AD IN THE
PAPER! I'LL SPEND ALL MY SAVINGS
IF I MUST! I'LL AA-AGH-H!

ANDERS-- JOHN
ANDERS! HELLO JOHN
ANDERS! HELLO! HELLO!
HA, HA...



THE CHASE HAD BEGUN--THE CHASE FOR HIS LIFE! SCREAMING, SOBBING HE RAN OUT INTO THE STREET...

HELP! SAVE ME! THEY'RE AFTER ME! THE GNOME'S ARE AFTER ME...!!



WHAT'RE YA-- CRAZY OR SOMETHIN'!

GASP...GASP...I-I THINK I'VE LOST THEM! THEY'LL NEVER FIND ME HERE! I'LL--

HA, HA...
HEE, HEE...!



HELLO, JOHN ANDERS!
HELLO! HA,
HA, HA..!

PLEASE--I--
I'VE DONE
NOTHING TO YOU
...LET ME GO...
PLEASE...



THEY RUSHED TOWARD HIM--PUSHING HIM BACK--TUGGING AT HIM SHOWING HIM--UNTIL HE LOST HIS BALANCE AND FELL INTO A MANHOLE! THAT WAS THE LAST THING HE HEARD--THE SOUND OF THEIR LAUGHTER--THE TERRIBLE SOUND...

GOODBYE, JOHN ANDERS! GOODBYE!
HA, HA... HEE, HEE... HEE...!



THE POLICE FOUND HIM LATER. SOMEONE HAD LODGED A COMPLAINT THAT THE CESS-POOL IN THEIR YARD WAS OVERFLOWING--SOMETHING WAS CLOGGING IT!!

HE MUST OF SLIPPED INTO A MANHOLE--AND WAS WASHED DOWN HERE!

JUST ANOTHER ROTTEN ACCIDENT! OH WELL--CALL THE WAGON!



WELL-- WE DIDN'T EAT HIM-- BUT HE IS ONE LESS!
HEE, HEE...

YES! WE CAN TAKE OUT HIS LIGHT NOW! OUR MASTER SHALL BE PLEASED WITH US TODAY!



AND UNDERGROUND IN THEIR GROTTO, THE STRANGE GNOME'S CHORTLED IN GLEE. THEY KNEW THAT ANDERS COULD NEVER CONQUER THEM. THEY KEPT THE LIFE SOULS OF MAN IN THOSE LIGHTS. THEIR MASTER, YOU SEE, WAS...
DEATH!!

THE END

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WRATH OF SATAN

THE BLOOD STAINED PAGES OF HISTORY ARE INSCRIBED WITH LURID TALES OF MEN WHO SOLD THEIR SOULS TO THE DEVIL! BUT NONE MORE GHASTLY THAN THAT OF SIMON FERGUS WHEN HE EXPERIENCED THE HORRIBLE WRATH OF SATAN!

HA! HA! HA!
CHOOSE, FERGUS!
NOW!

AN
EERIE
TALE
OF
WEIRD
TERROR



AT A PROSPEROUS CARNIVAL, A GAUNT HAGGARD MAN PICKS TRASH, UNNOTICED BY THE HAPPY THROG!

LOOK AT THEM! ENJOYING THEMSELVES WHILE I SLAVE FOR MY BREAD AND BOARD! BUT HOW COULD THEY KNOW THAT I ONCE OWNED THIS CARNIVAL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SLADE, DRACK, AND LEECH!



...AND TO THINK THAT AFTER THEY HAD SWINDLED ME OUT OF MY SHARE I WAS FORCED TO ACCEPT THIS--JOB--TO SEE THAT MY LITTLE SALLY HAD FOOD TO EAT!





VENOMOUS HATRED AND LUST FOR REVENGE CONSUME SIMON FERGUSSON BUT HE STRIVES TO CONCEAL HIS EMOTIONS IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS BELOVED DAUGHTER!

WHY... I DON'T KNOW, SALLY... MAYBE WE...

AND A NEW COAT, DADDY? WITH RED POCKETS? I GET VERY COLD AT NIGHT!



AND LATER THAT NIGHT, AFTER SALLY IS ASLEEP!

SHE NEEDS CLOTHES AND I CAN'T AFFORD THEM! REVENGE ON SLADE, DRACK AND LEECH FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE TO ME! REVENGE!



THERE'S NOTHING I WOULDN'T DO! WHY I'D EVEN DEAL WITH THE DEVIL HIMSELF IF ONLY---



THE ENRAGED TRASH PICKER LOOKS ON IN SILENT AWE AS HIS FERVENT PLEA IS ANSWERED!



YOU SUMMONED ME, SIMON FERGUSSON?

I DID! I'LL GLADLY--



I KNOW! YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH MY TERMS! SIGN THIS CONTRACT!

IT IS SIGNED! THERE AND WITH IT YOUR POWERS ARE MINE FOR THE ASKING!



AND NOW SLADE, DRACK AND LEECH SHALL PAY FOR THEIR CHEATING! THEY SHALL PAY IN FULL! HA-HA-HA!!!



BLINDED BY HIS OBSESSION FOR VIOLENT REVENGE, SIMON FERGUS WASTES LITTLE TIME IN PUTTING HIS DREAD POWER TO WORK!

I CAN'T FIND THE TROUBLE WITH THE CARS. MR. DRACK I'M BAFFLED!

YOU BLUNDERING IDIOT! MUST I FIX EVERYTHING HERE MYSELF!

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG HERE, YOU FOOL! WHY MUST I--WHA--!

THE CARS ARE MOVING, BUT THE CURRENT AINT ON!

STOP THE CARS!
STOP THEM
I SAY!!



BUT DRACK'S HYSTERICAL SUPPLICATIONS GO UNHEEDED AS THE CARS, AS IF CONTROLLED BY AN INVISIBLE FORCE, CAREEN WILDLY, PRECARIOUSLY OVER TRACKS GREASED BY SATAN HIMSELF!



AND THE ROLLER COASTER--- PLEASANT VEHICLE OF DIVERSION, IS TRANSFORMED INTO DRACK'S ROAD TO DOOM!



BUT AS THE CROWD DISPERSES AFTER WITNESSING DRACK'S GROTESQUE DEATH, SIMON FERGUS IS STUNNED AS AN OMINOUSLY FAMILIAR-LOOKING MAN CASUAL-RAISES A HAND TO REVEAL...!



THAT RING!
THE DEVIL'S HEAD
INSIGNIA!

FERGUS IS SHAKEN AND PERPLEXED, BUT HE ATTEMPTS TO DISMISS THE INCIDENT FROM HIS MIND! AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER, ERIC LEECH IS SAVAGELY EXPOSED TO THE TRASH-PICKER'S POWERS!

YOU SAY THIS AIRPLANE
RIDE IS YOUR HOTTEST
NEW ATTRACTION, ERIC?
LET'S TAKE A SPIN AND
SEE HOW IT WORKS!

CERTAINLY, JOHN!
FOLLOW ME IN, AND
WE'LL FASTEN THE
SAFETY BELTS, CLOSE
THE COCKPIT AND
SEE FOR YOURSELF!

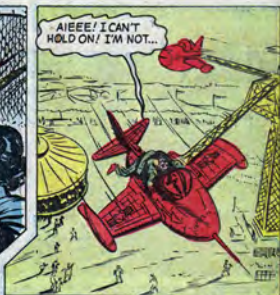


YOU'LL SEE, JOHN,
THAT IT'S... WHAT... THE
PLANE! IT'S MOVING!

ERIC!
LOOK OUT!



AIEEE! I CAN'T
HOLD ON! I'M NOT...



**AND SIMON FERGUS'S APPREHENSIVE CONCERN
TURNS TO NAKED FEAR AS A STRANGER IN
BLACK EXTENDS HIS HAND...!**



THAT MAN! IT'S HIM!
HE'S EVERYWHERE!



RACING BACK TO HIS TENT, FERGUS'S DESIRE FOR REVENGE IS TRANSCENDED BY HIS MOUNTING ALARM!

I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM HIM! HE'S CLOSING IN! I DIDN'T REALIZE WHEN I SIGNED THAT PACT THAT I SIGNED AWAY--NO! HE CAN'T!



HE'LL TAKE ME AWAY FROM SALLY! FROM EVERYTHING! FOR EVER! I'M DOOMED!

DADDY, IS SOMETHING WRONG?



WRONG? I--ER--NO, SALLY! EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY!



OHAY...! WHAT CAN I TELL HER... I'M TRAPPED! I CAN FEEL HIM WATCHING ME!



BUT AS A CONDEMNED MAN ORDERS HIS ELABORATE LAST SUPPER, SIMON FERGUS HAS LITTLE RECOURSE BUT TO HAVE THE REVENGE HE BARGAINED FOR SO HIGH A PRICE!

GIANT OCTAPUS
BY SIMON F. CHESTERTON 29

LEAVE IT TO GENDEL SLADE TO TAKE THE BEST EXHIBIT FOR HIMSELF! HEH-HEH! HOW'S MY PRIZE OCTOPUS TODAY, EH? I.... I'M WHAA!



AHHEE!!



AAAGH!!!







NIGHTMARE, as a word, has nothing to do with the milkman's horse. It preserves for us a record of the nocturnal visits of what the Anglo Saxons called "moers," meaning spirits. The belief that somehow spirits can communicate with human beings by way of dreams is one that is found on all planes of culture. Most popular form of communication has always been that of incubi and succubi who are said to consort with human beings in sleep.

ANCIENT EGYPT often confused magic with medicine, but it is a curious fact that tomb inscriptions show that simple diagnoses and prescriptions were employed for what we now know as the more curable diseases, while magical formulae and strange amulets were provided in cases that even modern medicine knows little about.

TORTURE in the history of law was once considered necessary to obtain justice. The reason was simple: under the prevailing rules, so-called "full proof" was essential for conviction without a confession; and the standards of "full proof" were set so high that in most cases it was unobtainable. It was therefore

material to obtain confession by some means or other. The most effective means was torture, and thus torture became for a long while sanctified as lawful and necessary.

THE GHOST DANCE of the American Indians is said to be the invention of an early choreographer who was a young Paiute Indian medicine-man known as Wovoka but named Jack Wilson by white men who knew him. Wilson proclaimed in 1888 that he had experienced a revelation that guaranteed the Indians would be rid of the palefaces if his ghost dance were performed. It became a fad—a sort of spooky jitterbug—and was actually one of the causes of the Sioux outbreak.

A COCKATRICE was, perhaps, the most deadly creature ever hatched. Supposedly produced from an egg by the warmth of a setting serpent, it was said to have the power of withering plants at its touch and poisoning men and beasts with a look from its baleful eye. One plant it could not kill, however, was rue; and the only animal unaffected by the glance of its wicked eye was the weasel. The existence of the cockatrice was firmly believed in throughout ancient and medieval times. Even the Bible mentions it—four times. Unfortunately for these modern times no sample of the kind of egg from which the cockatrice took its name can be found. It must, according to authorities on Evil, be hatched from the egg of a male fowl.

DEMONOLOGY, the pseudoscience which deals with demons on what may be described as a familiar basis, may be in for a revival during the Korean War. The reason is that the Korean peasants consider themselves haunted by demons to the number of thousands of billions! These malignant spirits, the Koreans say, fill their chimneys, homes, out-buildings; they are in every utensil and container, on every shelf; in thousands they accompany every traveller as he leaves his home, beside him, behind him, dancing and whirling around him and shrieking endlessly at him from air, earth and water. No doubt the proper military authorities are in communication with the fiends. Indeed, there is a Korean rumor to the effect that the UN forces are signing up these demons "by the thousands of billions!"

INQUISITIONAL TORTURE was forbidden to be applied more than once by the judges of that medieval sport. The eager inquisitors, however, soon discovered a neat evasion of the rules. They never terminated the torment of a torture but merely "continued" it from time to time so long as the body of their victim held together.

LIGHTED CANDLES AROUND A CORPSE still symbolize a primitive rite as old as the custom of watching at the side of a dead body all night. Both practices were originally due to the belief that a corpse, like a person asleep, is specially liable to the assaults of ghouls or vampires.

ST. ELMO'S FIRE, the mysterious lumination which appears on ship masts, lightning rods, pointed roofs, and even at finger tips during certain kinds of thunderstorms, is said to be dangerous if red in color but harmless if blue. It has never been wholly explained as an electrical phenomena.

INSANE PERSONS until the middle of the 18th century in Europe were cared for at shrines, or wandered homeless about the country. Those deemed a menace to the community were sent to ordinary prisons or chained in dungeons. Thus large numbers of lunatics accumulated in the prisons, and eventually there grew up a distinction between them and criminals which finally resulted in a separation of the two classes. It may therefore be said that humane treatment of the mentally ill is a contribution to civilization which we owe, literally, to criminals.



HALLUCINATIONS are not ordinarily associated with the use of tobacco. But it was once a means of producing them in Haiti, in much the same manner as hashish is used today.

A WITCH today is almost invariably old, but this is not true of the witches of the past. Among primitive peoples, as a matter of fact, it was believed that instruction in witchcraft was given by old women, but the pupils were young girls.

HOW TO SPOT A WITCH: In India the folklore has it that there is one infallible test by means of which the identity of a witch may be discovered. Beating them, the Indians say, with a castor oil plant makes them cry out!

MAGIC to the Cherokee was once a complicated business. A formula of the Cherokees' prescribes that the individual to whom evil is intended should be followed until he spits upon the ground. The spittle must then be collected on the end of a stick and put into a tube made of a poisonous plant together with seven earthworms, splinters of a tree blasted by lightning, and buried with seven yellow stones at the foot of a tree struck by lightning. The worms will feed on the victim's soul, the yellow stones are the emblem of trouble, and the lightning everyone knows is very powerful magic. If, after seven days, the intended victim survives, the magician himself will be in danger because this charm gone wrong will return "upon the head of him who sent it forth."

SADISM as the name for a vicious perversion characterized by cruelty comes from the infamous Marquis De Sade, whose title and name are correctly Count Donatien Alphonse Francois Sade. Born in Paris on the second day of June, 1740, he entered military service as a cavalryman at the age of fourteen, returning to Paris in 1766. His unnatural practices quickly became notorious and by 1772 had earned for him a sentence of death. He fled to Italy but was arrested and then escaped from prison. He was re-arrested and finally committed to the Bastille. Here he began to write the plays and obscene novels which still circulate in modern editions. This much is known generally. Not so generally known is the fact that in 1789, before the publication of any of his major works, he was removed to the Charenton Lunatic Asylum from which he was discharged in 1790 (a year before the publication of *Justine*), only to be recommitted as incurable in 1803. He died in the asylum on the second day of December, 1814, a hopeless madman.

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- Sharp Clear Views
- Smart, Modern Design
- Centre-Focusing Wheel
- Big Size and Big Power
- Satisfaction Guaranteed

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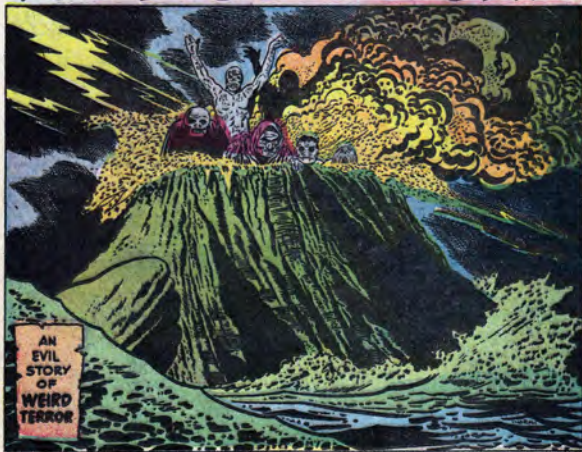
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GENTLEMEN: RUSH your guaranteed KLAROVIS Super Power Field Glasses for a whole week's home trial - FREE of obligation and your SURPRISE FRIENDSHIP GIFT. I will pay postman 3.00 plus postage on arrival. I shall enjoy them, and use them for a whole week and if not satisfied with this thrilling bargain, you are to send my 3.00 back. The Surprise Friendship Gift is mine to KEEP - even if I return the KLAROVIS!

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I WANT EXTRA SAVINGS FOR YOU! Send 3.00 cash, check or money order with this coupon and we pay ALL POSTAGE costs. SAME MONEY-BACK GUARANTEED.

38 RUMBLING THUNDER SHOOK THE COOL GREEN-BLUE WATER AND REGURGITATED THE MURKY FROTH INTO STINGING SPRAY, AND OUT OF ITS BUBBLING DEPTHS ROSE THE HORRIBLE VOLCANIC INFERNO THAT HAD COME TO CLAIM NEW VICTIMS LURING THEM TO THE...

ISLE OF DOOM!



AN
EVIL
STORY
OF
WEIRD
TERROR

THE
SCIENTISTS
WERE ON
THE SPOT!
AN ISLAND
BURSTING
FROM
HIDDEN,
MYSTERIOUS
DEPTHS
COULDN'T
ESCAPE
DETECTION
FOR LONG.

THERE IT IS, GENTLEMEN!
INCREDIBLE! A SCENE OUT OF
DANTE'S INFERNO! AS IF WE
ARE POISED ON THE GATES
OF HELL!



I DON'T LIKE THIS
STANTON! THE AUTHOR-
ITIES ONLY ALLOWED
US TO VIEW THE ISLAND
—NOT LAND ON IT!

NONSENSE WILLIAMS!
DON'T BE SO JUMPY.
MAN! WE'LL JUST STAY
A FEW MINUTES!



SOME MOMENTS LATER THE PLANE LANDED AND THE SCIENTIFIC GROUP MADE PREPARATIONS TO EXPLORE THE NEWLY-BORN ISLAND. AS THE FOUL-SMELLING VAPOURS ISSUED FORTH, THE SENSE OF MYSTERY DEEPENED...



IT'S WRONG, STANTON!
I HAVE A STRANGE
PREMONITION---

DON'T BE A FOOL!
I GIVE THE
ORDERS HERE!



YOU'RE COMING WITH US! LOOK--
THIS IS THE FIND OF THE DECADE!
LOOK, MAN--LOOK!



AND THERE... THEN... THEY SAW THE TOWER!

GOOD LORD! WHO WOULD
EVER BELIEVE IT? IT'S
SOME SORT OF BUILDING
SUNK INTO THIS BLACKENED
MUD AND SLUDGE!

--A LOST
CIVILIZATION
THAT MIGHT
GIVE US A
CLUE TO
MANKIND'S
ORIGIN!

BUT AS THEY TALKED IN AWE, AN OMINOUS SOUND MADE THEM WHIRL AROUND IN HORROR...

AIE! THE PLANE... IT'S
SINKING INTO THE MUD!
HELP!

TOO LATE! STAY
BACK OR WE'LL BE
SUCKED INTO THAT
QUAGMIRE TOO!



WE SHOULDN'T
HAVE LANDED! I
TOLD YOU! OH, H!
WE'LL ALL DIE
HERE!

NO ONE'S GOING TO DIE, WILLIAMS!
SNAP OUT OF IT! THE AUTHORITIES
KNOW WE'RE HERE! THEY'LL SEND
A RESCUE PLANE WITHIN THE HOUR!



WELL... WHAT SHALL
WE DO? WE'RE
STRANDED HERE!

USE YOUR HEAD! THIS
WILL GIVE US A GOOD
CHANCE TO EXPLORE
FURTHER! FOLLOW ME!



BUT AS THE MEN APPROACHED, A DARK SHADOW OF HORRIBLE MEANING SLUNK DEEPER INTO THE BLACKNESS OF THE DRIPPING WALLS...

WILLIAM'S MIGHT BE RIGHT, STANTON! THERE'S AN AIR OF BROODING THAT HANGS OVER THIS PLACE! HEAVEN KNOWS HOW LONG THIS ISLAND HAS BEEN UNDER WATER!

LOOK...THERE'S ANOTHER CHAMBER INSIDE!



GREAT SCOTT! GOLD!

GOLD! HA, HA... WE'RE RICH! THE IDOLS... THE DECORATIONS... THERE ALL GOLD! THERE'S MILLIONS HERE... MILLIONS

BUT WHY, STANTON? WHY IS THIS TOWER HERE? WHAT IS IT? WHO WERE THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT IT?

THAT'S NOT IN OUR PROVINCE TO FIND OUT! WE'RE ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DISCOVERING IT... AND THE TREASURE! LET THE ARCHEOLOGISTS DIG OUT THE SECRETS!

ALL I'M INTERESTED IN IS HOW MUCH GOLD IS HERE... AND IF THERE'S MORE OF IT! THIS IDOL FOR INSTANCE ---IT'S SOLID GOLD!

SO SOONER HAD STANTON CRUSHED THE IDOL TO PIECES, A STRANGE THROBBING SOUND FOLLOWED BY AN EERIE WAILING, ISSUED FORTH FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE TOWER.

OOOOOEEEE... THEY HAVE BLASPHEMED AGAINST US! RISE, BROTHERS! RISE! OOOOHEEEEE...



OOOOOEEEEH... THEY HAVE DESTROYED OUR OFFERINGS TO THE TOWER! THEY HAVE CURSED OUR FATES! LET THEM JOIN US NOW-IN ETERNAL MISERY!

YA-A-A-A! LET ME OUT OF HERE!!!



W-WHAT ARE THEY?
I-I'VE NEVER
SEEN ANYTHING
LIKE THIS IN MY
LIFE!

DEVILS FROM THE DEEP--
THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE!
DON'T YOU KNOW WHERE WE
ARE? THE INSCRIPTIONS--
THE DECORATIONS--WE'RE
IN THE TOWER OF BABLE!



NOW THE MEN HAD BUT ONE THOUGHT... TO FLEE FROM THE NIGHTMARISH SCOURGE THAT PURSUED THEM... FLEE FOR THEIR VERY LIVES!

OOO OOO OOO EEE! HASTEN,
BROTHERS! BEHOLD! ONE STUMBLES!
GOOD HE SHALL JOIN US!

AAIIIEEE!



YAAAAAGHH!

COME, MORTAL! YOU ARE NOW
ONE OF US! WELCOME, WELCOME
INTO OUR FOLD!



AAAAARRRRGGH!! THE
GROUND'S OPENING UP UNDER
ME! **AAIIIEEE--!**



*ONLY STANTON WAS LEFT! GASPING
PANTING, HE EMERGED FROM THE
TOWER-- TOO FRIGHTENED TO THINK--
TOO TERRIFIED TO REMAIN...*

GASP. GASP. I-I'M FREE! MADE IT!
HA HA... I'M FREE! THEY'LL NEVER
FOLLOW ME OUT HERE! WILLIAMS,
BARLOW--EVANS--ALL GONE! ONLY
I'M LEFT--



THE GROUND-- IT'S CHANGING-- UNDL-
ATING! NO--**NO!** PLEASE--! IT CAN'T
BE! FIGURES ARE COMING OUT OF THE
MUD! THEY'RE ALIVE! **EVERYTHING'S ALIVE!**



COME MORTAL! YOU ARE NOW ALONE! WHAT CAN YOUR PUNY EXISTENCE OFFER YOU? JOIN US FOR ALL ETERNITY! JOIN US IN **DEATH!**

N-NO! DON'T TOUCH ME! STAY AWAY FROM ME!



I'LL-- I'LL KILL YOU ALL! DON'T TAKE ANOTHER STEP! I'M WARNING YOU!



ARRRRRG!

HA... HA! SO YOU CAN BE HURT! GOOD! I'VE GOT OVER A DOZEN ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION! I'LL KILL YOU ALL! STAY BACK!

BANG!
BANG!
BANG!



FOR ALMOST AN HOUR, STANTON HELD THE CREATURES OF ETERNAL DEATH AT BAY! BUT NOW ANOTHER HORROR-- MORE DANGEROUS AND MENACING HAD ARISEN...

THE ISLAND--ITS SINKING BACK INTO THE WATER!!

YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, MORTAL? YOU CANNOT CONQUER THE UNKNOWN! YOUR PUNY WEAPONS HAVE ONLY PROLONGED THE INEVITABLE! WELCOME NOW! **WELCOME!**

YAA-AAH!!



THE WATERS ROLLED OVER HIM AND DRAGGED HIM DOWN! HE SCREAMED UNTIL THE SAND AND THE LAVA AND THE SEA FILLED HIS LUNGS, AND DOWN HE WENT, TO JOIN THE HORDES OF DEATH FOREVER--FOR HE HAD STUMBLERED ONTO THE ISLE OF THE DOOMED--GATEWAY TO HELL!!

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SOLDIERS
SAILORS
WACS
WAVES
MARINES
PT BOATS
BATTLESHIPS
CRUISERS
JEETS
BOMBERS

THE DESIRE TO GAIN RETRIBUTION IS ONE OF THE STRONGEST OF HUMAN PASSIONS... ACTUALLY CAPABLE OF TRANSCENDING THE GRAVE ITSELF! AS IT DID WHEN HENRI MARLEAU HEARD A MURDERED MAN PLAY HIS...

DEATH SONG!



ALTHOUGH HENRI MARLEAU AND GEORGE RICCO BOTH GRADUATED FROM THE SAME MUSIC CONSERVATORY WITH HIGHEST HONORS, THEIR FORTUNES HAVE HARDLY BEEN IDENTICAL! AT A NEW YORK RADIO STATION...

YOU'VE BOTH AUDITIONED WELL, GENTLEMEN... AND WE'VE CHOSEN YOU RICCO! NOTHING AGAINST YOU, OF COURSE, MARLEAU!



AND THROUGH THE YEARS, THEIR PATHS CONSTANTLY CROSS...

YOU ARE BOTH GOOD! BUT YOU RICCO, ARE SUPERB! YOU WILL BE MY SOLOIST!



THE FOOLS, THEY APPLAUD RICCO, WHILE I, THE GREATEST OF ALL VIOLINISTS LIVE ON BREAD CRUST!



YEARS PASS AND AS GEORGE RICCO'S FAME AND FORTUNE SKYROCKET, THE FRUSTRATED HENRY MARLEAU LANSUPHES IN HIS SQUALID ROOM.

I AM THE GREATEST VIRTUOSO IN THE WORLD AND RICCO IS JUST A CHEAP IMITATOR! BUT LOOK AT US!



THAT EVENING...

I AM THE MASTER! AND HE PLAYS INSIDE FOR THOUSANDS WHILE I EARN PENNIES ON THIS STREET CORNER!



LATER AS THE AUDIENCE LEAVES...

RICCO IS MAGNIFICENT! I COULD LISTEN TO HIM ALL NIGHT!

LOOK AT THIS POOR BEGGAR! GIVE HIM A COIN, DEAR!



AFTER THE CROWD HAS DEPARTED, AN BITTERED AND CRAZED MARLEAU AWAITS THE UNSUSPECTING RICCO!

POOR BEGGAR, AM I? FOR THIS RICCO MUST PAY WITH HIS LIFE!



MARLEAU WHAT...?

THE HAND OF A TRUE ARTIST ARE VERSATILE RICCO, HA-HA!

ARRGGGH!



NOW TO BURY THE BODY WHERE IT WILL NEVER BE FOUND! I'LL DRIVE YOU THERE, RICCO, IN YOUR OWN CAR! HEH, HEH...!



AND THE FIENDISH MURDERER DRIVES HIS VICTIM TO A DESOLATE AREA!
GOODBYE, RICCO! YOU'VE PLAYED YOUR LAST PERFORMANCE!

CACKLING GLEEFULLY, MARLEAU STARTS BACK TO THE CITY! THEN...!



HA-HA...! HE'LL TORTURE ME NO MORE! WHEN I-- WHA-- SACRE BLEU! HIS VIOLIN! I MUST GO BACK...!

YOUR IDIOTIC VIOLIN SHALL FOLLOW YOU, RICCO... SO THAT YOU MAY PLAY WHEREVER YOU ARE! AH-HA-HA!



BURN, HA-HA BURN...!

THE NEXT EVENING, AS A VAST AUDIENCE WAITS IMPATIENTLY FOR A MAN THEY LITTLE REALIZE HAS BEEN MURDERED! MARLEAU, IN A RENTED TUXEDO, PRESENTS HIMSELF TO THE DISTRAUGHT MANAGER WHO GRATEFULLY ALLOWS HIM TO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE ABSENT RICCO!



MY CHANCE AT LAST! NOW TO SHOW THESE IDIOTS WHAT TRUE GENIUS SOUNDS LIKE!

SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY CREATED BY HIS OWN SAVAGE VIOLENCE, THE CRAZED MUSICIAN OUTDOES HIMSELF!

MAGNIFICENT! I HAVE DISCOVERED A NEW MASTER! SUPERB...



BRAVO!

ENCORE, MARLEAU!

AT LAST THEY RECOGNIZE MY TALENT! MY DAYS OF PRIVATION ARE BEHIND ME!

YOUR AUTOGRAPH, MR. MARLEAU!



A WHIRLWIND TOUR OF RECITALS, CONCERTS AND RECORDING DATES FOLLOW, AND HENRI MARLEAU'S FAME SPREADS RAPIDLY! AND HIS WEALTH KEEPS PACE...



HE'S ON OF THE GREATEST GENIUSES OF THE DAY!

GREAT, MARLEAU, GREAT! THIS RECORD OUGHT TO SELL A MILLION COPIES!

AS THE ENTIRE WORLD APPLAUDS THE NEWLY DISCOVERED GENIUS, MARLEAU IS STARTLED BY AN UNEXPECTED AND UNWITTING GUEST AT AN EXCLUSIVE RECITAL...



WIIAAA--! NO! NO... IT CANNOT BE!

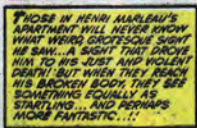
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MR. MARLEAU?



NOOOO....!

HE MUST BE GOING MAD!



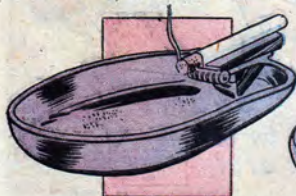


STOP CIGARETTE BURNS WITH CIGARETTE "CHAPERONE"

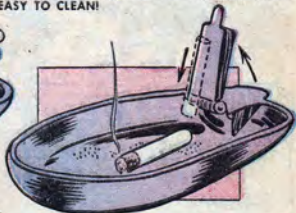


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